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P-Lane, Mark
Soc. 4.01.2 Rush
to Judgment

Let Lane Have His Fun

Mark Lane, speaking at Colgate Thursday evening, continued his amazing hypothesis of the John F. Kennedy assassination. CIA officials helped to plan the President's murder, he said. Lee Harvey Oswald informed the FBI in advance of the attack but the President was not informed and thereby walked into a death trap, he added.

Lane embellished his Colgate speech—as he has others—with talk of cover-ups, police-state, conspiracy. This is emotional stuff that always stirs audience reaction. Lane's theories have made money for him—in book form, "Rush to Judgment," in coast-to-coast lecturing.

Lane is adding something new in his recent speeches: The motive for the plotting, he said, could have been Kennedy's withdrawal of men from Vietnam, 3,000 in all. He leaves the impression that the CIA and other powerful groups wanted no such cutbacks and, therefore, entered into the conspiracy to kill the President.

About all that can be said is let Lane and others have their fun. For a half century after Lincoln's death there were

writers and speakers who alleged that John Wilkes Booth was still around, that he was unjustly accused, that Lincoln, deranged because of family problems, planned his own assassination.

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LANE ignores the weight of evidence—that the Warren Commission had access to all official files, pictures, documents and details, that commission staff members interviewed 25,000 people, that exact information exists on the purchase by Oswald of a mail order gun, that members of the Kennedy family are satisfied with the principal Warren Commission findings.

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INTERESTINGLY, Lane told his Colgate audience to expect the testimony given yesterday by Oswald's widow before a grand jury in New Orleans to be "very interesting." If this was a sample of Lane accuracy, he fell short. The lady, now Mrs. Kenneth J. Porter, said she had "nothing new" to offer District Attorney Jim Garrison.